

In the claims: The claims are as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A method for use in synchronizing a first item data store ~~(10e)~~ with a second item data store ~~(11e)~~, wherein when storing the items in the first item data store ~~(10e)~~ the items are assigned to categories in a first set of categories ~~(10d)~~, and similarly for the second item data store ~~(11e)~~, the method ~~including~~ comprising:

~~a step (51) in which during a synchronization session,~~  
selecting or receiving for storing in the first item data store a  
new data item (40) already stored in the second item data store  
~~(11e) is selected or received for storing in the first item data~~  
~~store (10e);~~

~~the method characterized in that:~~

wherein the new data item (40) includes or is accompanied  
by a category indicator indicating one of at least two categories  
in a branch of a hierarchy of categories ~~(11d 12)~~.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the category indicator indicates all categories in a branch of the hierarchy of categories ~~(11d 12)~~.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first item data store ~~(10e)~~ and the second item data store ~~(11e)~~ are hosted by a single device ~~(10)~~.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first item data store ~~(10e)~~ and the second item data store ~~(11e)~~ are hosted by respective different devices ~~(10 11)~~.

5. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein a synchronization agent ~~(10b)~~ receives or selects the new data item

~~(40)~~, and further ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the synchronization agent ~~(10b)~~ assigns to the new data item ~~(40)~~ a category from among the first set of categories ~~(10d)~~ based on the category indicator and based on a predetermined procedure.

6. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 5, further ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the synchronization agent ~~(10b)~~ stores the category indicator so as to be associated with the new data item ~~(40)~~ and without changing the category indicator.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 5, wherein the category indicator is a string of categories beginning with a lowest-level category and leading to a top-level category, or vice versa.

8. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 7, further ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the synchronizing agent ~~(10b)~~ searches the first set of categories ~~(10d)~~ for a category matching a category in the string of categories, taking each category in the string of categories in turn, beginning with the lowest-level category, and ~~providing~~ provides as the assigned category the matching category in the first set of categories ~~(10d)~~.

9. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 7, further ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the category indicator is a string of categories indicating a ~~possibly~~ partial or entire branch of a harmonized category hierarchy ~~(12)~~.

10. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the first item data store is hosted by a device, and ~~further~~ ~~characterized in that~~ data indicating the harmonized category hierarchy ~~(12)~~ are included as part of the device ~~(10)~~.

11. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the first item data store is hosted by a device, and further ~~characterized in that~~ the harmonized category hierarchy ~~(12)~~ is stored in a data store ~~(12)~~ external to the device ~~(10)~~ and accessible to the device ~~(10)~~, and the device ~~(10)~~ refers to the external data store ~~(12)~~ from time to time so as to remain harmonized to the category hierarchy ~~(12)~~.

12. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 7, further ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the category indicator is a string of categories indicating a ~~possibly-partial~~ or entire branch of an express or implied category hierarchy ~~(11d)~~ of categories for organizing items in the second item data store ~~(11e)~~.

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~(10)~~ including comprising at least a first item data store ~~(10e)~~ and adapted for synchronizing the first item data store ~~(10e)~~ with a second item data store ~~(11e)~~, wherein when storing items in the first item data store ~~(10e)~~ the items are assigned to categories in a first set of categories ~~(10d)~~, and wherein for the second item data store ~~(11e)~~ items are also assigned to categories in a second set of categories ~~(10d)~~, the apparatus ~~including~~ further comprising:

means ~~(51)~~ by which during a synchronization session a new data item ~~(40)~~ already stored in the second data store ~~(11e)~~ is selected or received for storing in the first item data store ~~(10e)~~;

~~the apparatus characterized in that:~~

wherein the new data item ~~(40)~~ includes or is accompanied by a category indicator indicating at least two categories in a branch of a hierarchy of categories ~~(11d-12)~~.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 13, wherein

the category indicator indicates all categories in a branch of the hierarchy of categories ~~(11d-12)~~.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 13, wherein the first item data store ~~(10e)~~ and the second item data store ~~(11e)~~ are both hosted by the apparatus ~~(10)~~.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 13, wherein the first item data store ~~(10e)~~ is hosted by the apparatus ~~(10)~~ but not the second item data store ~~(11e)~~.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 13, wherein the apparatus ~~(10)~~ ~~includes~~ further comprises a synchronization agent ~~(10b)~~ and wherein the synchronization agent ~~(10b)~~ ~~receives~~ is configured to receive or selects-select the new data item ~~(40)~~, and ~~further characterized in that: the synchronization agent (10b) to assign assigns~~ to the new data item ~~(40)~~ a category from among the first set of categories ~~(10d)~~ based on the category indicator and based on a predetermined procedure.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 17, further ~~characterized in that: wherein~~ the synchronization agent (10b) stores-is configured to store the category indicator so as to be associated with the new data item ~~(40)~~ ~~and without changing the~~ category indicator.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 17, wherein the category indicator is a string of categories beginning with a lowest-level category and leading to a top-level category, or vice versa.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 19, further ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the synchronizing agent (10b)

~~searches~~ is configured to search the first set of categories ~~(10d)~~ for a category matching a category in the string of categories, taking each category in the string of categories in turn, beginning with the lowest-level category, and ~~providing to~~ provide as the assigned category the matching category in the first set of categories ~~(10d)~~.

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 19, further ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the category indicator is a string of categories indicating a ~~possibly-partial~~ or entire branch of a harmonized category hierarchy ~~(12)~~.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 19, wherein ~~further characterized in that~~ data indicating the harmonized category hierarchy ~~(12)~~ are included as part of the device apparatus ~~(10)~~.

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 19, wherein ~~further characterized in that~~ the harmonized category hierarchy ~~(12)~~ is stored in a data store ~~(12)~~ external to the device apparatus ~~(10)~~ and accessible to the device apparatus ~~(10)~~, and the ~~apparatus~~ device ~~(10)~~ refers ~~is configured to refer to~~ the external data store ~~(12)~~ from time to time so as to remain harmonized to the category hierarchy ~~(12)~~.

24. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 19, wherein the second item data store is hosted by a second apparatus, and ~~wherein further characterized in that~~ the category indicator is a string of categories indicating a ~~possibly-partial~~ or entire branch of an express or implied category hierarchy ~~(11d)~~ of categories supported by the second ~~device~~ apparatus ~~(11)~~.

25. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~(10)~~ of claim 13, further

~~characterized in that wherein~~ the apparatus is selected from the ~~set-group~~ consisting of a mobile cellular phone, a personal digital assistant type of device, a laptop computing device, and a computer.

26. (Currently amended) A system, comprising a plurality of devices ~~(10-11)~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least two of the devices are each an apparatus as in claim 13.

27. (Currently amended) A system, comprising a plurality of devices ~~(10-11)~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least two of the devices are each an apparatus as in claim 17.

28. (Currently amended) A system, comprising a plurality of devices ~~(10-11)~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least two of the devices are each an apparatus as in claim 18.

29. (Currently amended) A system, comprising a plurality of devices ~~(10-11)~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ at least two of the devices are each an apparatus as in claim 20.

30. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a telecommunication terminal ~~(10a)~~, ~~with wherein~~ said computer program code ~~characterized in that it~~ includes instructions for performing the ~~steps of the method~~ of claim 1.

31. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a telecommunication terminal ~~(10a)~~, ~~with wherein~~ said computer program code ~~characterized in that it~~ includes instructions for

performing the ~~steps of the~~ method of claim 5.

32. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a telecommunication terminal-~~(10a)~~, with wherein said computer program code ~~characterized in that it includes~~ instructions for performing the ~~steps of the~~ method of claim 6.

33. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor in a telecommunication terminal-~~(10a)~~, with wherein said computer program code ~~characterized in that it includes~~ instructions for performing the ~~steps of the~~ method of claim 8.

34. (New) An apparatus comprising at least a first item data store and adapted for synchronizing the first item data store with a second item data store, wherein when storing items in the first item data store the items are assigned to categories in a first set of categories, and wherein for the second item data store items are also assigned to categories in a second set of categories, the apparatus further comprising:

a processor, configured so that during a synchronization session a new data item already stored in the second data store is selected or received for storing in the first item data store;

wherein the new data item includes or is accompanied by a category indicator indicating at least two categories in a branch of a hierarchy of categories.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the category indicator indicates all categories in a branch of the hierarchy

of categories.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the first item data store and the second item data store are both hosted by the apparatus.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the first item data store is hosted by the apparatus but not the second item data store.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the apparatus further comprises a synchronization agent and wherein the synchronization agent is configured to receive or select the new data item, and to assign to the new data item a category from among the first set of categories based on the category indicator and based on a predetermined procedure.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, further wherein the synchronization agent is configured to store the category indicator so as to be associated with the new data item without changing the category indicator.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the category indicator is a string of categories beginning with a lowest-level category and leading to a top-level category, or vice versa.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, further wherein the synchronizing agent is configured to search the first set of categories for a category matching a category in the string of categories, taking each category in the string of categories in turn, beginning with the lowest-level category, and to provide as the assigned category the matching category in the first set of categories.